

NSHC 29th Conference
Brest
September 2010

Explanatory Note
Item **D2**
United Kingdom

D CO-OPERATIVE NSHC/IHO PROJECTS

D2 Report on WEND WG activities by NSHC representative at the WEND WG

Report on WEND WG discussions at IRCC2

Background

At IRCC1 (Monaco, June 2009) the WEND-WG was established and the Terms of Reference agreed. Its tasks were defined as:

- 1. Monitor the development of adequate ENC coverage to meet any carriage requirements for ECDIS;**
- 2. Develop proposals for speeding up ENC production and ensuring uniform ENC quality and consistency, and for making data available worldwide, including SENC distribution, taking advantage of any offers for production assistance, or other ways of mutual assistance and co-operation;**
- 3. Advise MS, where appropriate, on the need, as well as on methods and tools for validating the data, and on any assistance which could be offered by the RENCs;**
- 4. Monitor the implementation of the WEND, in response to Decision 21 of the XVIIth IHC, and advise IRCC of appropriate measures for speeding-up the implementation process;**
- 5. Assist in harmonizing the policies of regional ENC Coordinating Centres (RENC) with respect to matters related to administration, legality, finances, technical processes, et cetera.**

In December 2009, Vice Chair of IRCC, Abri Kampfer requested RHC Chairs to select representatives for the WG and to indicate if they would be willing to serve as Chair of the WEND-WG. The only commission to put forward a candidate for Chair was NSHC; they proposed Captain Vaughan Nail (UK). WEND-WG members were notified in March and Captain Nail took over as Chairman from 10th April 2010 on the basis that no objections had been received. He has subsequently been re-appointed within the UK Navy and his relief, Captain Jamie McMichael-Phillips, as notified to WG members in May, took over as interim Chair. He indicated a willingness to remain as Chair, if acceptable to IRCC2.

IRCC2

In the light of the proposals submitted, IRCC2 confirmed Captain McMichael-Phillips (UK) as the WEND-WG Chair. IRCC members also confirmed Captain Carlos Albuquerque (BR) as Vice Chair (BR) of the working group.

IRCC also approved the proposed work plan as detailed in the WEND-WG report, emphasising the coordination with the IHB for the presentations to IMO on ENCs status. The Committee decided to invite HSSC to consider the way forward for the ECDIS Stakeholders'

Forum in order to continue allowing for a timely input from the industry. The WEND-WG approved plan is as follows:

- 1. To further progress the tasks outlined in the terms of reference and especially**
 - a. In conjunction with RHCs, monitor progress in providing ENC coverage and identify and propose solutions to issues of concern such as gaps and overlaps. This should include consideration of the MBSHC paper to the WEND WG**
- 2. Investigate and report on the significance of other areas of concern**
 - a. variation in licensing terms and conditions**
 - b. reports of ENC quality and updating issues**
- 3. Keep RHC Chairs informed of ENC issues identified within their regions**
- 4. Prepare report for IRCC3, Niteroi, Brazil (26-27 May 2011)**
- 5. Provide support to IHB in preparation of reports to IMO NAV sub-Committee**
 - a. Importance of ENC coverage to IMO NAV 57 (2011)**

Progress on ENC coverage

In preparation for IRCC2 the Chair issued WEND-WG Circular Letter 01-10 to WG Members requesting views from on the adequacy of ENC coverage and particular issues affecting Commission regions.

The ENC coverage figures reported by IHO to IMO NAV54 in 2008 were as follows: 94 % for small scale ENCs (planning), 68 % for medium scale ENCs (coastal approach) and 65 % for large scale ENCs (ports). At that time there were some very significant gaps in coverage especially in the Asian region and there were a significant of areas of overlapping and sometimes conflicting data and importantly, not all ENCs were being updated regularly.

The IHO report to IMO NAV56 on the availability of ENCs shows that there has been considerable progress in enhancing coverage over the past two years. Small scale coverage (Overview and General Usage Bands 1 & 2) are virtually complete (excluding very northern latitudes). Coverage at coastal scales (Usage Band 3) has increased to 84 % and 91 % of the top 800 ports now have coverage at Usage Bands 5 and or 4. The report concludes that "... production reports provided to the IHO secretariat from hydrographic offices show that the worlds major trading routes and ports are now almost completely covered" however it acknowledges that "...at the end of 2010 some small gaps will remain in Africa, Arctic routes and the Caribbean."

However individual shipowners and their representative bodies still harbour concerns that their full requirements will not be met in time for the carriage requirement. Existing national paper chart coverage extends to more than 2000 ports. Currently only about 75% of the ports ranked between 800 and 2000 have ENC coverage; the missing coverage particularly affects the cruise lines as they tend to visit less frequented ports and their vessels are amongst the first to be required to fit ECDIS.

Reports received from the Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairs show that a considerable amount of work is in progress in identifying and resolving the remaining gaps and overlap issues through RHC working groups or bilateral discussions. Only a minority of Commissions can claim to have full ENC coverage at this point and therefore a significant amount of work remains to be done to fully allay the concerns of shipping companies.

At WEND 11, the issue of overlapping ENC data was discussed. A paper submitted to the WG in May 2010 by France as INT chart co-ordinator for MBSHC highlights this as a continuing problem. The paper has been circulated to WG Members for comment. IC-ENC also reports that overlapping data continues as an unresolved issue for some areas. It appears that, as the number of ENC producers has increased, so has the amount of overlapping ENC data; this being especially, but not exclusively, in Usage Bands 1 & 2.

Topics for consideration by NSHC Member States

In order to represent NSHC better within WEND-WG activity, it would be valuable to canvass member state opinion and feedback on the following key areas:

- the WEND-WG work plan detailed above
- proposed ideas or solutions to solve ENC gap and overlap issues
- the continuation of the ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum.

*Captain McMichael-Phillips, Chairman, WEND-WG and NSHC representative for the WG,
September 2010*